

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 /073 W  
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R 290001Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9127  
INFO USUN NEW YORK 1028

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6670

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA DEFENDS MEXICO'S VIGOROUS  
THIRD WORLD POSITIONS

1. RABASA, WHO LEFT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S 14-COUNTRY  
TOUR TO GO TO SAN JOSE RIO TREATY CONFERENCE, TOUCHED BASE  
IN MEXICO OVER WEEKEND BEFORE REJOINING PRESIDENTIAL PARTY.  
(SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS, BUT NOT SECRETARIAT SOURCES, SAID  
RABASA WOULD GO TO MOSCOW TO SIGN COMECON AGREEMENT BEFORE  
JOINING ECHEVERRIA). DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT HOME, RABASA  
TALKED WITH EXCELSIOR REPORTER WHO RAISED SEVERAL ISSUES  
OF INTEREST.

2. ASKED WHETHER MEXICO WAS "UNDER PRESSURE FROM GREAT  
POWERS" BECAUSE OF THIRD WORLD INITIATIVE, RABASA REPLIED  
IN NEGATIVE. SHOULD SUCH PRESSURES BE EXERTED, HE SAID,  
THEY WOULD BE "ENERGETICALLY REJECTED". DID THIS MEAN,  
REPORTER ASKED, THAT GREAT POWERS HAD ABANDONED "COERCIVE  
ACTIONS"? NO, RABASA SAID, BUT PRESSURE FORMERLY EXERTED  
THROUGH ARMED INTERVENTION IS NOW APPLIED THROUGH ECONOMIC  
MEASURES. HENCE THE NEED FOR THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC  
RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES ERCERDSL.

3. IS MEXICO TRYING TO LEAD IN LATIN AMERICA? NO,  
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RABASA SAID; MEXICO HAS NEVER SOUGHT A LEADERSHIP ROLE,

THOUGH "SOME COUNTRIES BELIEVE OR WANT TO BE LEADER."

4. DOES MEXICO'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE SQUARE WITH ITS NATIONAL REALITY? (THIS PENETRATING QUESTION, SELDOM PUBLICLY RAISED THOUGH FREQUENTLY PRIVATELY DISCUSSED IN MEXICO, TROUBLED RABASA ACCORDING TO THE REPORTER.) "ABROAD, WE HAVE NEVER CONCEALED THAT WE ARE A COUNTRY OF GREAT PRIVATIONS AND THAT UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE MANY UNSATISFIED NEEDS, IN THE FIELDS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND PRODUCTION. NOR HAVE WE DENIED THAT THERE ARE LARGE NUCLEI OF DISADVANTAGED (WITHIN MEXICAN SOCIETY). NONETHELESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING CONSTANT EFFORTS TO (AMERLIORATE) HEALTH CONDITIONS, (REDUCE), IGNORANCE AND LACK OF DEVELOPMENT ...IN HIS MANY TALKS WITH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. ...PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS ALWAYS SPOKEN CLEARLY ABOUT THE SITUATION IN MEXICO."

5. DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING, ISN'T IT DANGEROUS FOR MEXICO (TO FOLLOW) SUCH AGGRESSIVELY INDEPENDENT POLICIES, HAVING AS A NEIGHBOR THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY? RABASA: "IT'S WORTH RUNNING THE RISK, SO LONG AS MEXICO'S FOREIGN POLICY MEANS A REAFFIRMATION OF NATIONAL AUTONOMY."

6. RABASA FURTHER COMMENTED THAT MEXICO(AND, OBVIOUSLY, THE THIRD WORLD) HAS THE RIGHT TO FIX PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS. HIS RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE GREAT POWERS DO NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO "GIVE CREDIT, BUY OR NOT BUY, AID OR NOT AID" LDC'S WAS THAT "WE LIVE IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD."

7. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE UN WITHOUT THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE U.S., WHICH THREATENS TO WITHHOLD IT? RABASA: " IF THE U.S. REALLY WANTS PEACE IN OUR TIME, IT SHOULD CONSIDER THAT THE BEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING IT IS THROUGH--AND COMPLYING WITH THE POSTULATES OF--THE U.N."

8. COMMENT: OF SOME INTEREST IS THAT RABASA'S COMMENTS, SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE IN TONE, ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS AGGRESSIVE THAN THOSE OF HIS UNDERSECRETARY, RUBEN GONZALEZ  
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SOSA(WHOSE STATEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH JUST CONCLUDED CLUB OF ROME MEETING IN GUANAJUATO WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.) RABASA'S COMMENTS(AND REPORTER'S QUESTIONS) ALSO SEEM TO REFLECT CONSIDERATION OF POINTS MADE IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S JULY 14 MILWAUKEE SPEECH. (EMBASSY SENT TEXT OF SPEECH TO HIM UNDER FIRST PERSON NOTE OF JULY 16; TEXT WAS PRESUMABLY TRANSMITTED TO HIM BY SECRETARIAT OR CAME TO HIS ATTENTION DURING BRIEF STOPOVER IN MEXICO CITY.)

QUESTION AND ANSWER ON MEXICO'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE VS  
ITS NATIONAL REALITY ALSO HAVE OVERTONES OF PORTION OF  
AMB. MOYNIHAN'S COMMENTARY ARTICLE, WHICH HAS RECEIVED  
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN LOCAL INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES,  
PRESS, AND FOREIGN SECRETARIAT.  
JOVA

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